

SENATE BILL 2561

By Kyle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to educational best practices.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-1-1__.

(a) The general assembly finds and declares that teaching practices in educational institutions that receive public funding for kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) education should embrace and implement the best practices of models of K-12 education reform including those developed by charter schools, virtual schools, schools participating in voucher programs and other reform models that may arise. Such best practices should be implemented to:

- (1) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods proven to be effective through education reform models;
- (2) Improve learning opportunities for all students; and
- (3) Close the achievement gap between high-performing and low-performing students.

(b) In order to effectively identify and disseminate best practices of education reform, the state board of education, the department of education and the office of research and education accountability in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, shall confer with other education stakeholders and determine the best means of organizing and operating a best practices clearinghouse.

(c) The purpose of the best practices clearinghouse shall be to collaborate and cooperate with schools using models of education reform to identify their best practices, to implement a system for dissemination of such practices, to permit all public schools to learn from these best practices, and to assist public schools in the use of best practices. The best practices clearinghouse shall be charged with studying models of education reform to identify, develop and share best practices of these models with public schools. No later than the second Tuesday in January of each year, beginning in the second year after its creation, the best practices clearinghouse shall present a report of its work to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

(d) By October 1, 2014, the state board of education, the department of education and the office of research and education accountability shall report jointly, in writing, to the government operations committees of the house of representatives, the senate and the education committees of the house of representatives, and the senate on their progress towards determining the best means of organizing and operating a best practices clearinghouse. The state board of education, the department of education and the office of research and education accountability shall include in their report recommendations for any legislation necessary to create the best practices clearinghouse.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.